

## 2014-2105 Exception Request Whole Grain-Rich (WGR) Pasta

**Instructions:** If you plan to request an exception, please complete and return this form to [ode.schoolnutrition@ode.state.or.us](mailto:ode.schoolnutrition@ode.state.or.us). If you have questions, please contact your assigned Child Nutrition Specialist. Complete a new request for each product.

Sponsor Name: Portland Public Schools

Contact Person: Whitney Ellersick

Phone Number: 503.916.3276

CNPweb Agreement Number: 2616011

Item Description: Macaroni and Cheese, Whole grain

Manufacturer: Land O'Lakes

Product number: 43277

Specific description of what makes the product unpalatable: Cheese sauce discoloration, gritty pasta with no integrity, gummy sauce that hardens quickly after heating. Did not pass any initial taste tests with staff; in search of acceptable product at shows, RFP tasting and yet to find one; peers at other school districts explained disdain for current products and decrease in their participation after switch to whole grain macaroni and cheese. Please see attached statement.

Description of technical assistance received from product manufacturer to correct the issue: Told there was no alteration available due to lower fat, lower sodium, whole grain requirements; original product was no longer available that proved acceptance with students. Also limited on equipment in facilities; have to purchase a ready made product since ovens only available in facilities. Please see attached statement.

Meal count without WGR product: \_\_\_\_\_

Date served: \_\_\_\_\_

Meal count with WGR product: NA

Date served: NA

Attach the following documentation:

- Recipe and process used to prepare product
- Production records, completed and supporting above meal count data
- Other forms that detail the time of production, time of service, and holding temperatures for each site where the product is served

### State Agency Use Only

Child Nutrition Specialist: Cheryl Teschner

Technical Assistance Provided: Follow-up questions on testing of additional products other than Land O Lakes. PPS staff participated in state bid blind taste testing with all processors submitting a product for the state USDA processed foods bid. PPS staff found none of the product tasted to be acceptable.

Additional Information Gathered: Replacement proposed is to be determined. Would seek an enriched noodle macaroni and cheese. Testing has included local offerings from Portland/Oregon company. Uncertain if PPS will continue to offer macaroni and cheese due to higher cost and site level prep restrictions/issues (ovens only at sites).

Recommendation: Not approved. Not clear that the WGR noodle has solely impacted macaroni and cheese acceptability. Many variables impacted poor acceptability, including SFA limitations on site preparation.

Ashley W. Dwyer

Manager, School Nutrition Signature

5/7/2015

Date

Approved for 2014-15

Request Denied

Whole Grain-Rich Pasta Exception Request